

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/02130 filed on June 26, 2003.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] Prior Art      **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a an improved piezoelectric actuator useful, for example, for actuating a mechanical component such as a valve or the like[[],] according to the features in the preamble to claim 1.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Advantages of the Invention

**SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION**

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Drawings      **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] An exemplary embodiment of the piezoelectric actuator according to the invention will be explained in detail herein below, in conjunction with the drawings[.] in which:

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] **Description of the Exemplary Embodiment**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Fig. 2 is a top view of an inner electrode 3 and ~~an another~~ inner electrode 4 depicted with a dashed line, in which it is clear that the inner electrode 3 is connected to the outer electrode 5 on the left side and the other inner electrode 4 is connected to the outer electrode 6 on the right side. According to the invention, an adhesive tape 7 is applied to the one side of the piezoelectric actuator 1 and an adhesive tape 8 is applied to the other side.

Page 6, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0023]:

[0024] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.